

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 137938  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT:REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY

1. DEPT HAS WELCOMED RENEWED INTEREST IN REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY AS EVIDENCED BY ADOPTION AT 1977 UNGA OF RESOLUTION 32/127 AND AT THE 34TH (1978) COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF RESOLUTION 24 (XXXIV). BOTH OF THESE RESOLUTIONS, INITIATED PRIMARILY BY THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA, GENERALLY ENDORSE THE EXPLORATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE REGIONS WHERE NO SUCH REGIONAL COMMISSIONS EXIST, AND FOCUS UPON THE ORGANIZATION BY THE UNSYG OF REGIONAL SEMINARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE USEFULNESS AND ADVISIBILITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 137938

2. HRC RESOLUTION 24 GOES A STEP FURTHER THAN UNGA RESOLUTION 32/127 IN ITS SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND ITS REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ASSIST THE OAU AT ITS REQUEST IN FACILITATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR AFRICA.

3. DEPT IS INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING FOLLOW-UP TO THE TWO

RESOLUTIONS IN PURSUIT OF OUR GOAL OF PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY. WE REGARD REGIONAL MACHINERY AS NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS OF THE UN SYSTEM. MISSION IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO INQUIRE AT HIGH LEVEL IN THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABOUT THEIR INTENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND ANY PLANS FOR REGIONAL SEMINARS IN THOSE REGIONS WHERE NO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EXISTS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING PARTICULARLY WHETHER THE DIVISION HAS MADE ANY CONTACT WITH THE OAU. IN THIS CONNECTION DEPT NOTES THAT WHILE NEITHER RESOLUTION ASSIGNS TO THE UNSYG A SPECIFIC TASK OTHER THAN TO ORGANIZE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL SEMINARS AND TO ASSIST THE OAU AT ITS REQUEST, WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THESE RESOLUTIONS GIVE TO THE DIVISION AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE. HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION NOW HAS BASIS TO INITIATE CONTACTS WITH INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE REGIONS IN QUESTION AND TO ENCOURAGE PLANNING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY WITHOUT WAITING FOR INQUIRIES OR INITIATIVES FROM STATES OR ORGANIZATIONS FROM THESE REGIONS. AS ONE SPECIFIC POSSIBILITY MISSION SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THE UNSYG MIGHT ARRANGE CONTACT BETWEEN EXISTING REGIONAL MACHINERY (I.E., THE COUNCIL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 137938

EUROPE AND THE OAS) AND THE OAU, WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING A POSSIBLE EXAMINATION OF THE MATTER BY THE OAU. IN SUCH CONTACTS, HELPFUL INFORMATION ON THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MIGHT BE SUPPLIED TO THE OAU. YOU MAY WISH TO RECALL TO DIVISION THAT EGYPTIANS AND NIGERIANS IN PARTICULAR INDICATED AT LAST HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SESSION THAT THEY WERE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE IAHRG AS A MODEL FOR AN EQUIVALENT AFRICAN BODY.

4. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE A REPORT ON THE PRESENT STATE OF PLANNING ON THE PART OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION WITH RESPECT TO FOLLOW-UP OF THE TWO RESOLUTIONS ON REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ARRANGEMENTS. MISSION SHOULD ASSURE THE DIVISION THAT YOUR APPROACH HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF A DESIRE OF THE USG TO SHOW HELPFUL INTEREST. WE IN NO WAY SEEK TO IMPINGE UPON THE PROPER ROLE OF THE UNSYG AS THE PRINCIPAL ACTION AGENCY UNDER THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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